(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that FDI is allowed to certain extent at present in retail sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) and (d) As per extant policy, FDI is not permitted in retail trading.

Permission for take-over of distilleries by foreign companies

498. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are the sole authority in regard to setting up/taking over of distilleries for production of IMFL by foreign based copanies in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments particularly Karnataka and Maharashtra have granted permission to foreign based companies for taking over distilleries producing IMFL without the Central Government's approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) FDI in distillation and brewing of potable alcohol require prior approval of Central Government;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Impact of reforms on agri-trade

499. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item captioned "concerns over directions of post reforms agri-trade" which appeared in the Economic Times dated 28th December, 2001;